

PREFACE

The purpose of this Final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman Natural Gas Development Project is to supplement the Draft EIS which was published in February 1997. Reviewed together, the Draft and Final EISs incorporate the description of the proposed project, other alternatives including the "No Action" alternative, the affected environment, as well as the analyses of potential environmental consequences resulting from construction, operation, and abandonment of the proposed project. This Final EIS should not be considered as a complete EIS, nor as a decision document. This FEIS is organized into six sections:

- Section 1, *Executive Summary* - Information presented in this section describes the NEPA process utilized in the analysis, briefly describes the Proposed Action and alternatives, provides a summary of the resource elements analyzed and a summary of their cumulative effects, and describes the agency-preferred alternative.
- Section 2, *Addendum and Errata* - Provides an addendum of additional discussion and studies which have been completed to address comments received during the comment period on the draft EIS. It also includes an errata section showing changes in the text of the Draft EIS which resulted from public comment.
- Section 3, *Consultation and Coordination* - Summarizes the consultation and coordination that occurred during the preparation of the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman EIS and background information regarding the consultation and coordination process.
- Section 4, *Comment Letters Received on the Draft EIS* - Provides a copy of the public comment letters received on the draft EIS.
- Section 5, *Response to Comments* - Provides BLM's responses to those comments shown in Section 4.
- *Appendix* - One appendix not included with the draft EIS is provided in this final EIS. Appendix A contains the Cumulative Air Quality Impact Analysis Technical Support Document Addendum.

In response to comments received concerning cumulative impacts to air quality from the reasonably foreseeable implementation of the Cave Gulch-Bullfrog-Waltman and other projects, the BLM, through the expertise of the firm *TRC Environmental Consulting, Inc.*, has supplemented the air quality sections of the draft EIS with a more comprehensive air quality cumulative impact analysis addressing the construction and operation phases of oil and gas development. The Appendix A item of this final EIS expands upon the cumulative impact analysis found in the draft EIS. The details of the Draft EIS analysis are available in a separate Technical Support Document entitled "Cumulative Air Quality Impact Analysis". A copy of the technical report can be reviewed at the Bureau of Land Management, 1701 East "E" Street, Casper, Wyoming 82601. It is also available for review at the BLM State Office Cheyenne, Wyoming. A preliminary technical review of the Technical Support Document was conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality-Air Quality Division, and U.S. Forest Service Bridger-Teton National Forest. Concurrence in the scope, content, and analysis procedure contained in the Technical Report was provided by these agencies.

The draft and final EISs have been prepared according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA, effective July 30, 1979.

The analyses were based on a proposed schedule and highest potential level of development contained in the draft EIS. As the project is implemented, the impacts will be evaluated to determine if they fall within the parameters discussed in the draft and final EISs. Any major change in project design would require additional environmental analysis.